

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



August 17 – August 23, 2014 [Issue 15]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Joe Samela

A Message from Monomoy

It sure does seem like the end of the field season now that the rest of Monomoy's interns are leaving at the end of the week. Staff spent this week focusing their efforts on pulling water chestnut at the Sudbury Complex and conducting shorebird and staging count surveys. These surveys will help staff locate red knots as they are gearing up in anticipation of Shorebird Project in September.

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb the birds! To add, there have been multiple shark sightings around the refuge. Swimmers should be careful when making decisions to swim on the refuge.

2014 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Double-crested cormorant
Great black-backed gull
Herring gull
Ring-billed gull
Glaucous gull
Iceland gull
Laughing gull
Bonaparte's gull
Western Willet (8/21)
Greater yellowlegs
Lesser yellowlegs
Black-crowned night heron
Yellow-crowned night heron
Tricolored heron
Green heron
American bittern
White-rumped sandpiper
Least sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Short-billed dowitcher
Black tern
Arctic tern
Spotted sandpiper
Whimbrel
Razorbill
Mississippi kite
Glossy Ibis

Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Snowy owl
Great egret
White-throated sparrow
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Red-winged blackbird
Common grackle
Ruddy turnstone
Wilson's plover
Red Knot
Seaside sparrow
Northern gannet
Common loon
Common eider
American black duck
Magnolia warbler
Cedar waxwing
Brant goose
Eastern kingbird
Willow flycatcher
Barn swallow
Black Scoter
Gull-billed tern
Wilson's Phalarope (8/21)

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from Monomoy
- 1 2014 Field Season Update
- 1 Bird Sightings
- 2 Bird Activity
- 2 Predator Removal and
Invasive Species Control
- 2 Roseate Habitat Restoration
- 2 iPlover
- 2 Salt Marsh Integrity
- 3 MRBS

Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Yianni Laskaris

Bird Activity

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

Staff went out on 8/22 to re-sight staging AMOYs on North Monomoy and Minimoy. Thankfully, many AMOYs that bred on the refuge were seen feeding with their fledglings. To add, YE(2K) was re-sighted on North Monomoy with an unbanded AMOY. YE(2K) was banded on Minimoy in 2011, so it was exciting for staff to know one of their chicks made it to breeding age after all these years.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of more staging individuals in the coming weeks.

Tern Staging Count Surveys

Staging count surveys were conducted twice this week on 8/21 and 8/22. Staff focused their efforts north of Cooler Dune on South Beach on 21 August and located 1 flock with 11 roseate terns (ROST). Of these 11 ROSTs, 3 had a 6-band color combination, 1 had a yellow PFR indicating it was banded in either NY or CT, and 3 had red PFRs indicating they were banded in either ME, NH, or Canada.

Unfortunately, weather hindered staff's opportunity to conduct a staging count survey on Minimoy on 8/22 and were noted many shorebirds flushing for an unknown reason.

Staging count survey efforts will continue in the coming weeks as staff will try to re-sight as many staging terns before they migrate.

Shorebird Surveys

Shorebird surveys were conducted twice this week on 8/21 and 8/22. On Thursday, staff concentrated their efforts at the Wasteland on South Beach and at the Connection. Overall, over 3000 shorebirds were observed at the Wasteland, including 1 Wilson's phalarope, 1 western willet, 152 red knots, and almost 1000 semipalmated sandpipers. The Connection revealed 1000 birds with notable appearances from 289 semipalmated plovers, 372 sanderlings, and 30 red knots.

On Friday, staff tackled Minimoy and Powder Hole. Minimoy produced a staggering 3,415 birds, which included 1,630 semipalmated sandpipers, 17 Hudsonian godwits, and 448 Red Knots. Powder Hole was found to have 521 shorebirds with notable appearances from 126 black-bellied plovers and 196 semipalmated plovers.

Staff will continue to conduct shorebird surveys on the refuge and South Beach in the coming weeks.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report. The nesting LETEs on Minimoy were not checked this week.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

Staff will be planting 1450 seaside goldenrod at the end of August in hopes of attracting more roseate terns for the following breeding season. The plants will be picked up from the New England Wildflower Society in Whately, MA on 8/25.

Salt Marsh Integrity

No new information to report.

Monomoy Refuge Banding Station(MRBS)

On 15 August, James Junda and his team of banders started banding efforts down by the lighthouse at the south end of South Monomoy. These efforts will extend into November and will help Monomoy understand what species of landbirds use the refuge as a stopover during their migration.

Current & Upcoming Events

Tern Staging Counts

Seaside Goldenrod Planting

Shorebird Surveys

Shorebird Project: Trapping Window 1

Surface Elevation Table Installment

August

Late August

Aug. 15 – Oct. 13

September 7 – 12

Sept 29 – Oct 3

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6